

Florence, New Jersey
January 4, 2017

The Council of the Township of Florence met at the **Florence Township Municipal Building**, Florence, New Jersey on the above date for the purpose of organizing for the ensuing year and for the transaction of other business which might properly come before it.

The meeting was called to order by the Acting Township Clerk, Nancy L. Erlston, at 7:00 PM. She then led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Acting Township Clerk: Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 7, 2016 and December 30, 2016; published in the Burlington County Times on January 3 & 10, 2016 and December 28 2016, placed on the Township website and Channel 19; given to the Trenton Times for information on January 7, 2016 December 20 2016.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank K. Baldorossi, Jr.
Theodore J. "Ted" Lovenduski
Paul C. Ostrander
Jerry Sandusky
David B. Woolston

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator;
Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Nancy L. Erlston,
Acting Township Clerk

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

The Acting Township Clerk opened the nominations for **President of Council**.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to nominate **Ted Lovenduski** as Council President.

There being no further nominations, it was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to close the nominations. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

Upon roll call for **Lovenduski**, the Council voted as follows:

YEAS:	Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None

Unanimous approval.

Clerk Erlston asked **Council President Lovenduski** to take the chair and preside over the meeting.

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VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Council President Lovenduski opened the nominations for **Vice President of Council**.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Paul Ostrander** as Vice President of Council.

There being no further nominations, it was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to close the nominations. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

Upon roll call for **Paul Ostrander**, the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Zoning Board

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to appoint Anthony Drangula to the Zoning Board for a four year term expiring December 31, 2020, Margo Mattis as Alt. # 1 for a two year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2017 and Dennis Puccio as Alt. #2 to a two year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2018.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

Cross Acceptance Representatives, Burlington Co. Route 130 Corridor(1 year term)

Newell Kehr

B. Michael Zekas

Barbara Fegley, Township Planner

Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator

Richard Brook, Township Administrator

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to appoint those listed above as Cross Acceptance Representatives, Burlington County Route 130 Corridor with terms running for one year expiring December 31, 2017.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

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COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Ted Lovenduski** as the Council Representative to the **Planning Board** for a one year term.

It was on the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Jerry Sandusky** as the Council Representative to the **Environmental Commission** for a one year term.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to nominate **David Woolston** as the Council Representative to the **Recreation Committee** for a one year term.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Paul Ostrander** as the Council Representative to the **Economic Development Committee** for a one year term.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

Township Auditor

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to appoint **John J. Maley, Jr. of Holman, Frenia, Allison, P.C.** as the Township Auditor.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

(A formal Resolution will be approved during the meeting.)

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONFIRM MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Wilkie recommended the following **professional appointments** to Township Council for their approval:

Township Solicitor
Township Engineer
Township Planner
COAH Planner
Township Water & Sewer Engineer
Prosecutor
Public Defender
Bond Counsel
Conflict Public Defender
Special Projects/Conflict Engineer

Capehart Scatchard
Maser Consulting, P.A.
Environmental Resolutions, Inc.
Clarke, Caton, Hintz
Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers
Andrew Smith, Esq.
James D. Fattorini, Esq.
Capehart Scatchard
Robert Perry
Richard A. Alaimo Assoc. of Engineers
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Environmental Resolutions, Inc.

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Conflict Engineer
Insurance Broker

Dante Guzzi Engineering Associates, L.L.C.
AJM Insurance

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Recreation Committee, Class 2, Mayor Rep.	Al Garcia	12/31/2017
Recreation Committee	Donna Sadler	12/31/2021
Recreation Committee	Carl Mattson	12/31/2021

It was the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to approve the **Mayor's Professional Appointments for 2017** (Formal Resolutions will be approved during the meeting.) and **Recreation Appointments**.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

MAYOR PRESENTS 2017 APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Wilkie presented the following Mayoral appointments:

Municipal Alliance Membership, Mayor Rep.	Martin J. Eckert, Jr.	12/31/2017
American with Disabilities Comm.	Nancy L. Erlston	12/31/2017
American with Disabilities Comm.	Richard A. Brook	12/31/2017
American with Disabilities Comm.	Thomas Layou	12/31/2017
American with Disabilities Comm.	Randy Belknap	12/31/2017
American with Disabilities Comm.	Tim Lutz	12/31/2017
CDBG Representative	Thomas A. Sahol	12/31/2017
Delaware Estuary Program	Paul Ordog	12/31/2017
Historic Preservation Commission, Class A	Colleen Carney	12/31/2020
Historic Preservation Commission, Class C, Alt.#2	Jack Ulmer	12/31/2018
Planning Board, Class 4	Thomas McCue	12/31/2020
Planning Board, Class 4, Alt. #1	Russell MacArthur	12/31/2017
Environmental Commission, Planning Board Rep.	Ray Montgomery	12/31/2017
Environmental Commission, Alt. #1	Linda Panzarella	12/31/2018
Shade Tree Commission	Blake Dimon	12/31/2021
Shade Tree Commission	Dan Myslinski	12/31/2021
Economic Development Committee	B. Michael Zekas	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Newell Kehr	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Tara Sandusky	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Kevin Minton	12/31/2016

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01
ANNUAL NOTICE AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02
TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2017**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-03
DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04
ACCOUNTS DEPOSITED AT NEW JERSEY CASH MANAGEMENT FUND**

**RESOLUTION 2017-05
ACCOUNTS DEPOSITED AT BB&T BANK**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-06
ESTABLISHING A CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECKS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07
AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR
(*Capehart Scatchard*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-08
AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH TOWNSHIP ENGINEER
(*Maser Consulting*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-09
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF BOND COUNSEL
(*Capehart Scatchard*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-10
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER
ENGINEER
(*Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-11
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PROSECUTOR
(*Andrew Smith, Esq.*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-12
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
(*James D. Fattorini, Esq.*)**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-13
APPOINTING TAX SEARCH OFFICER
(*Mary Anne Brown*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-14
DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER
(*Nancy Erlston*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-15
APPOINT DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK
(*Richard Brook*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-16
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
(*Holman, Frenia, Allison, P.C.*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-17
APPOINTING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
(*George Ondusko*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-18
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF ORGANIZATIONS
TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-19
APPOINTING RECYCLING COORDINATOR
(*Thomas Sahol*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-20
APPOINTING ROAD INSPECTOR
(*Richard Pendle*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-21
APPOINTING TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTES FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTORS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-22
AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, SANDRA A. BLACKER, TO
MAKE MUNICIPAL DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS
AS PER THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-23
APPOINTING TOWNSHIP CLERK AS
PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER
(*Nancy Erlston*)**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-24
APPOINT THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR, RICHARD A. BROOK,
AS THE JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-25
ADOPTING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-26
ADOPTION OF A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRUG FREE WORKPLACE ACT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-27
APPROVE MUNICIPAL STORMWATER
PROGRAM COORDINATOR
(Richard Pendle)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-28
A RESOLUTION FIXING INTEREST RATES AND PENALTIES
ON DELINQUENT TAXES AND MUNICIPAL CHARGES AND FIXING
ADDITIONAL SUMS TO BE PAID TO THE HOLDER OF A TAX
TITLE UPON REDEMPTION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-29
AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE TO FILE APPEALS, OMITTED AND
ADDED ASSESSMENT APPEALS, AND ROLL BACK COMPLAINTS WITH
THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-30
AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
(Robert Perry, Esq.)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-31
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF A COAH PLANNER
FOR COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING
(Clarke, Caton, Hintz)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-32
AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH CONFLICT/SPECIAL PROJECTS ENGINEER**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-33
APPOINT CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGENT AND
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ADVISOR
(Phoenix Advisors)**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-34
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL
PLANNER
(*Environmental Resolutions, Inc.*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-35
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED
STATE CONTRACT VENDORS FOR CONTRACTING UNITS
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-36
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT AS CONFLICT ENGINEER
AND AWARDED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH DANTE GUZZI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-37
APPOINTING DEPUTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
(*George Gareis*)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-38
APPOINT HEALTH INSURANCE BROKER
ANDREW JACKSON METTS (AJM INSURANCE)**

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolutions 2017-01 through 2017-38.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston, to receive and file the Township Clerk's Report and Tax Collector's Tax and Water & Sewer reports for December. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

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MINUTES

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve the following minutes.
Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion Carried.

- Township Council Closed Session – December 14, 2016

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Off Premise 50/50 Raffle-Roebling Museum, Nyikita Field, 10th & Hornberger Ave. June 18, 2017, 8:00 p.m.

It was the Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Application A.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilman Sandusky said six years ago when Mayor Wilkie took office he made it a point to let the public know he had the opportunity to serve with Mayor Wilkie's Father, H. Kenneth Wilkie. He was happy to say this evening that many years ago he served with Acting Clerk Erlston's mother, former Mayor Sharon Worrell. He welcomed Acting Clerk Erlston. She thanked him.

Mayor Wilkie gave his annual State of the Township slide presentation at this time. The presentation highlighted some of the accomplishments of the previous year and some of what is planned for the upcoming year. He noted that the first slide showed the Township sign that was designed a few years ago. They grace just about every entrance to town. There is one now placed at the Burlington-Columbus Road entrance coming from Burlington.

The group photo that was taken a few years ago needs to be updated because after twenty eight years Clerk Joy Weiler is no longer here. Nancy Erlston is the new Acting Township Clerk. She is entering a position that has shown longevity. Looking back into the records, there was a gentleman named Charles Green who was first appointed to the position in the early 1900's. In the 1950's he seemed to have fallen ill, but he served more than forty years. Following him was Norman Hamilton who was Mayor Wilkie's Social Studies teacher for seventh and eighth grade. He served from 1959 until December 1988. Clerk Weiler started right after Mr. Hamilton and just retired after twenty eight years. He congratulated Acting Clerk Erlston and said he and Council have the utmost confidence in her.

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A longtime business in the community, Boyd's Pharmacy, has been partnering with the Florence Fire Department for over thirty years to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It is usually the Saturday just before Easter or the week before, depending on the weather. He wanted to acknowledge that continued partnership within the community.

There is another partnership he would like to discuss. About a year ago, the Fountain of Life Center reached out to the Township and said it wanted to donate something to help everyone in the community but related to safety. The Police Department and Fire Department thought a display sign would be a good idea. The Life Center and the Township each paid half and now there is a mobile display sign, usually on Front Street.

In April the Township always remembers Officer Walter J. Kotch, hopefully the only officer the Township will ever have to lose in the line of duty. It was on Good Friday and he was working a traffic detail at the intersection of Cedar Lane and Route 130 and unfortunately he passed away. Just to show how far the department has come since then, at that time there was only one officer working during night shift and maybe there were two during the day because there was a chief. The department had nine people at the most. A retired officer, Larry Ingham, said he worked with Officer Kotch and Officer Kotch was only six months into his job and was running the night shift by himself. Times have changed in our community as they have in the world.

For Arbor Day in April the Shade Tree Commission gave away free seedlings. In May the Township annually recognizes National Day of Prayer. Retired Clerk Weiler approached the Township about it a number of years ago and had coordinated a service every year since then. Gary Richardson, the Fire Department Chaplain, led this year's service. Also this time of year is Read Across America. The Police Department and other community leaders read to the children in the schools.

The scouts approached the Township about an Eagle Scout Project for John Boracci. He worked in conjunction with the Recreation Department. The Township has beautiful parks, and wanted to get information out to the community. The scouts created two very nice kiosk signs. One is off Veteran's Park and the other is by the Little League field.

Many times the Township workers, Police Officers and Fire personnel have to get together and sometimes it is not because of the happiest of reasons. An example was the Tollgate fire that happened last year. One thing these groups do periodically is try to get together and have some fun. An example is the Annual Mayor's Cup softball tournament. The Township workers are quite happy because they have now won three tournaments in a row after having lost for a few years.

In the spring the Police Department and Fire Department teamed up to make young people aware of what can happen at a crash scene. They provided a demo for the new and soon to be young drivers. The Township tries to keep the Police and Fire Departments close to the community.

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This past June the carnival returned after a hiatus of about ten years. He was proud to announce it would be coming back this June 15th through the 18th. The Township would like to continue a tradition that everyone seemed to enjoy and hopefully it will grow.

There is also a new tradition that started in 2016. Nyikita Field is the home for the carnival and now it also the home for the Farmer's Market. It has been a huge success and on June 22 it will be returning. It is due to run through November.

The Griffin Pipe property is going to be redeveloped. A partnership has been formed with the new owners of the site and they are in the process of capping it. They will work with the Township to redevelop the site and get it back on the tax rolls.

At the annual Patriotic Day Celebration, the Township honored former Township Clerk Joy Weiler for her many years of service. She was the Grand Marshal of the parade. The parade is scheduled this year for the first Saturday in July.

The Township continues to try and improve the quality of life for the community. New energy efficient lighting was installed in different areas. The first that he saw were in the municipal parking lot. They were very bright. They were also installed at the boat ramp. They are saving money and are much brighter. They have been installed in other locations and the Township will continue to replace older lights with the new energy efficient lighting.

The only basketball court that had lights was vandalized and the light poles were destroyed. Around that time, Councilman Sandusky suggested trying to get some light for the basketball courts near Veteran's Field. The Township was able to install energy efficient lights. There is a button to activate them and they turn off automatically after a certain amount of time. The court he is referring is near Veteran's Field, but the court that was vandalized is slated to be updated and is being budgeted for.

The Delaware River Heritage Trail will be coming to Florence. There is a commitment that it will come across from Crystal Lake and go underneath the spur to the Roebling Steel Plant. That is moving forward.

The next slide was about how many children participate in the recreation programs the Township offers. Combining same season sports shows there are many children participating. This is the second year that online registration has been available. It also creates a database the recreation programs can use to keep in contact with parents and children.

The Township now offers an Internet Sales Safety Zone. There is a spot in front of the Municipal Building. It is well lit and there is a video camera.

This year the Township received \$180,000 in grant money from the County for park safety improvements. The last of the playgrounds were completed. Every playground in the Township now has a safety surface. It makes the area handicapped accessible.

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It is an effort the Township has been working on for the last five years and it is now complete.

With the completion of the safety surfaces, the Township plans to direct its attention to the new park in Roebling on what was once the slag area. The Township received access to the area about a year and a half ago and there has been a Park Committee that has been meeting since September. They will be meeting again in February. The Shade Tree Commission has been working through the County Grants Program and got some trees planted there. There are also benches, trash receptacles and the like. When the area first opened people said there wasn't anything there but at that point the Township did not have ownership. A year ago the Township took control of the facility and is now able to do these types of things. The Township must also maintain it. It is very large and is a benefit to the community.

The Township recently built a Salt Storage Barn near the Public Works facility. The salt was being stored in the old Public Works building. That was temporary because salt is corrosive. The new building can hold 800 tons of salt. The Township does not use that much but it is prepared for the future. It is a nice addition to the community.

This past December 7th the Township celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Veteran's Monument at Fifth and Oak Streets. It was originally dedicated on the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It was rededicated on the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

As part of the Florence Township Preservation Program, the Township recently acquired eleven acres on Brown Boulevard. This was purchased with the one cent Open Space Tax that was approved by the community in 2008. The program has been responsible for preserving over sixty acres.

Another example of community groups coming together for a good purpose is the Books vs. Badges basketball game with the Police playing against teachers from the school district. This is a fundraiser for the local food pantries. He doesn't know who won because no one really worries about keeping score for a good cause.

Work on Hornberger Avenue was scheduled and was just getting underway when there were politics in the State of New Jersey that affected the Transportation Trust Funds. The money for this program was already approved. There was no reason to shut it down, but because of other problems that were going on the work was halted. By the time the funds were released it was too late in the year. The asphalt plants were not operating at that point. This spring Hornberger Avenue will be paved from Delaware Avenue to Parish Lane and then from Parish Lane into the village. It will be put out bid and hopefully the contract will be awarded and the second phase could happen right after the first phase.

He reviewed the slide showing the 2016 Road Program and the streets that were improved. The Mayor explained that work like this is made possible without burdening

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the local budget due in part to the PILOT Agreements resulting out of the commercial development occurring in the Township. There was over \$1 million in improvements this year and close to the same amount last year. The Township is currently developing its 2017 Road Program that will be in excess of \$1 million. It is about quality of life.

Pinto's was a business that was in the community for a very long time. The owners passed away. The site was unique for its position at the time. It is now time for a rebirth. The Township worked with the family and purchased the property. The property was demolished and it is being cleaned up. Presently there are no plans for the property.

The West Fourth Street School was demolished. An organization will be developing it to provide affordable housing for two or three disabled people. It is a nice reuse to a property that was and will now continue to be a benefit to the community.

There are situations where organizations are no longer operating, like the Grand Dukes. The Township demolished their facility about ten years ago, because they were unable to maintain it. The Marconi Lodge is a similar situation. The Charter was created in the 1930's and was written in Italian. The Township purchased the property and demolished it. The building was in disrepair and was a safety issue. The Township does not know what will be done with the property. It was a blighted situation and the Township needed to step in.

This past September Amazon opened its facility on Cedar Lane. Some people are very upset because of the new traffic patterns and the Township understands that. There are also a number of people in the Township who are employed there. There are between 500-800 jobs at the facility. They created a partnership with the community. This past holiday a number of gift cards provided by Amazon were given out to families in need through the Police Department and Fire Departments. There were also donations from Burlington Coat Factory and a number of other organizations in town. They are working to be a positive improvement to the community.

QPSI was the last piece of the NFI project on Route 130. Many people don't realize it is there. It is overshadowed by Subaru and Express Scripts. QPSI is relocating from Burlington Township. This will be the company's headquarters and distribution center. They should be operating in the spring or early summer.

The boy scouts delivered the Township Calendars to all of the homes in the community. Mayor Wilkie thanked them for their hard work. He noted there were additional calendars available at the Municipal Building.

First Industrial, the building across from Amazon on Cedar Lane, will be announcing soon who the occupant will be. They told the Township there will be about 150-200 employees. It is a well-known organization, but they confirmed it will not be Amazon.

He reviewed the Cedar Lane improvements, noting there would be some new turning lanes and a widening of the roadway. There will also be a roundabout that is being installed at Cedar Lane and Railroad Avenue near the whirlybird.

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The Police Department welcomed two new officers this past year, Patrolman Chris Green and Patrolman Zach Czepiel. The Civil Service list the Township was working from is now expired. This past year the Township asked Civil Service to post a new list. That has been done and the Township is hoping to be able to hire additional officers this year.

Mayor Wilkie outlined some of his goals for 2017. The Township hopes to be able to repurpose the old Public Works Garage. He hopes to put into place this year and Absentee Landlord Ordinance. He knows there is an issue with landlords not maintaining properties and he would like to put more teeth in the ordinance that is in place. Another problem is vacant properties. There are some laws in place that can be used to address the situation. The Township Master Plan will be updated this year. This is something that is required by law to be done every ten years. The Township Planner will be assisting the Township with that undertaking. The 2017 Road Program is already being developed and sidewalks are being installed from the high school to the Tall Pines development. A few years ago a bike path was installed that ran from Brookside Drive to Marter Field. It was extended from the park to the high school. This will connect from the high school to Tall Pines. There was also a request from residents to install sidewalk from Fairbrook Drive to Hornberger Avenue. The Township asked the State to install it. The State declined but gave the Township permission to proceed. There will also be sidewalk along Hornberger Avenue to the bridge.

He said the Township will be implementing compliance with COAH requirements. This deals with the Township's affordable housing. He sees things on social media stating the Township has enough affordable housing but many times those posting don't know the laws in the State of New Jersey. The Township has just secured protection for the next nine years. The Township is required to put affordable housing in the community so it will be implementing that. He was pleased to announce that because of funding returns the Township will be able to bring back its Summer Recreation Program. It was cut in 2009 when the recession began. There is a lot on the table for this year. He welcomes everyone to attend meetings and participate. He wished everyone a great 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Kristan Marter, 220 East Front Street, said at the December 7th meeting there was discussion regarding the Griffin Pipe project. She agreed it is good for the Town. There are many new things that happened this year and she is personally starting to get more involved in what is happening in the Township. Griffin Pipe stood out for her. She lives on Front Street and she is concerned with the truck traffic. She provided a display board showing an aerial view of the Griffin Pipe area. She said at that meeting there was talk about the fact that the two large buildings are going to produce truck traffic. It has been approved and the resolution was that the owner could market the property. There was also discussion regarding the truck traffic it could produce. The conversation was that the Township could not put weight limits on Front Street because of the problem of entrapment.

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Mayor Wilkie said the Redevelopment Plan for that site specifically directs all truck traffic in and out of the site through Burlington Township. She was correct about the rest of the traffic, the general traffic flow. Ms. Marter asked if traffic leaving that site must go through Burlington Township. Mayor Wilkie said it is the same for traffic coming to the site as well. It specifically states this in the Redevelopment Ordinance. The site has a number of options for what could be built.

Ms. Marter said currently there are a lot of trucks on Front Street. She says people have noticed an increase in traffic and there have been issues with people trying to get in and out of their driveways because of the truck traffic. Her understanding was that the Township cannot put a weight limit on Front Street because it is a County road and because of this whole idea of entrapment. She asked if there was a way to prevent any truck traffic coming from Burlington Township into Florence. It was her understanding that distribution centers, if that is what is put on the site, don't employ the drivers that deliver and pick up. They are from other companies bringing distribution into the facility. Trucks will travel Interstate 295 and exit onto Florence-Columbus Road and then cross over Route 130, there is nothing to stop them from continuing down to Front Street. Whether they are going to Burlington Township or that facility, how does anyone know to be able to single out one facility and target them by ticketing them. Mayor Wilkie said the site is being designed so that a truck will not be able to enter. He said things will happen and some will get lost, but the Police will be vigilant as they have been in many cases.

Ms. Marter said that many trucks traveling to Amazon end up on Front Street. Her concern is the truck traffic and the exhaust. There are other options. The option that she came to present is a bypass. Mayor Wilkie said the Township has been trying to get a bypass since 1988. Ms. Marter said there is a possibility to connect River Road to John Galt Way. She said she was at the meeting of Burlington Township's governing body the evening before and the Mayor was reviewing what had happened in Burlington Township over the past year. One item was that there was going to be a 535,000 sq. ft. warehouse/distribution center at the US Pipe site. This creates problems for the forty or fifty homes that are on Neck Road. She spoke to the Mayor and asked if she could schedule an appointment to meet with him to discuss the traffic and the idea of a bypass. He said Burlington Township is having that conversation with the County to discuss dead-ending Neck Road and having the County take over Dulty's Lane. They are also discussing a bypass. She asked if anyone from Florence Township was at the meeting Burlington Township had with the County regarding these issues. Mayor Wilkie said he did attend and it was a joint meeting called by the Mayors of both municipalities. Ms. Marter said this has been a discussion since December 7th. She also attended the December 21st meeting but there was a retirement celebration and she didn't want to bring this up at that time. There have also been many conversations on Facebook about the issue. She said she had to go to another municipality to learn information. Florence Township is not giving her any information.

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Mayor Wilkie said he would have to disagree. Florence Township, since at least 1988, has been looking at a bypass. In about 2001 the Township negotiated with the County and the County said it would institute a \$2 million cap but it could not be done for that amount. Mayor Wilkie has been trying to find a way to make this happen. It is very expensive to cross over the rail spur. There are other options that are being researched. He didn't think he needed to tell her he was attending a meeting regarding this. It is something that the Township has been actively working on. At a prior Council meeting Mark Remsa shared with Council that he might have found another location that might work. There is a lot of private property involved and Mayor Wilkie said much of the information cannot be shared publicly until plans are more firmly in place. The Township has been looking at this for years, he doesn't know how quickly it will happen.

Councilman Sandusky said he thinks the Mayor has been responsible about discussing what is going on in town. An example was the Amazon building. He didn't share information with Council until he was absolutely sure it was correct. When he knows positively what is going to happen he would immediately share it with the residents. He has trust in the Mayor that whenever he says something it is firm.

Ms. Marter apologized and said that was not what she meant. She said the Burlington Township Mayor was very open with her about the possibilities and that there was going to be a meeting. It put her mind at ease that someone was looking at the problem. Mayor Wilkie said he has offered to meet with Ms. Marter numerous times, and unfortunately she was unable to meet. He is always willing to sit down with anyone to discuss anything. He would prefer not having to use social media for Township issues.

Council President Lovenduski asked that everyone agrees that Facebook is a necessary evil. There are a lot of inaccuracies posted. That is why Mayor Wilkie and members of Council will not be answering questions on Facebook. It isn't in the best interest of the community to spread what may be a rumor, or to feed what may be a rumor.

Mayor Wilkie said he and Council spent a lot of time at the December 7th meeting trying to explain things. The meeting was well attended and he and Council took the time and went over many issues. Council President Lovenduski said as public officials, the Mayor and Council members are held to a little bit higher of a standard than any individual who can write on Facebook. During that meeting the Mayor misspoke but he apologized and took responsibility. That is the kind of thing that can happen. He didn't make anything up, that was what he was told at some point. The amount of information that is provided to the Mayor and Council and what they decide can be made public is because of this kind of thing. They don't make anything public until it is certain. Once the process is further down the road the public can be informed. They have to be very cautious about what they say. Misspeaking could cause the Township a lot of trouble and the taxpayers a lot of money. There is the potential for lawsuits in some cases.

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Yes, some things may be held close to the chest, but sometimes it needs to be for a certain amount of time. They don't have the freedom to say what they want to say. Anyone can get on Facebook and write whatever they want under any name they want.

Ms. Marter said she did not come to be adversarial or to argue with the Mayor. There have been some good conversations and she doesn't want to be adversarial to the town. She moved here because she really wanted to be here. She didn't grow up here, she grew up in Burlington Township and she wanted move here. She wasn't exposed to Griffin Pipe and she keeps hearing how awful it was and she should have been there then. It isn't that way now and it is a really nice town. She is trying to look out for the residents. She referred to her photo indicating the area of Neck Road. Burlington Township is trying to look out for the fifty families in that area by shutting off Neck Road so the trucks can't go down there. They aren't putting up weight limit signs, they are going to dead end the road and ask that the County take over Dulty's Lane and make it a County Road.

Administrator Brook said she keeps saying that Burlington Township is going to do it. That isn't correct. One thing about Mayor Wilkie is that he is very cautious. He heard Council President Lovenduski mention Facebook. It is great and has a wonderful element to it, especially for family issues and keeping touch. But there are many times information gets posted on Facebook and it is incorrect. Many times posters will just take it down and not acknowledge they made a mistake. Facebook is a double edged sword. With respect to what the Mayor and Council are doing, they have been in conversations with the County for months about possibly doing something. Before they start discussing what may happen they make sure it is going to be done correctly. Mayor Wilkie initiated conversations with the Mayor of Burlington Township. The meeting this morning was two hours long regarding a bypass road. There is a great deal of detail that has to be figured out. Whatever Burlington Township does impacts Florence and vice versa. Burlington Township also has a good amount of development coming. That is why the two Mayors are working together with the County for a solution that encompasses both communities. The Mayor, Council and Township Administration are very willing to talk to residents at any time but they will not be participating on Facebook.

Ms. Marter said she understood that. She said she was told from Burlington Township that the plan is going to move forward. She brought the photo and discussed it because she wanted to make sure someone in Florence was looking at the plan. They have assured her that Florence is looking at and it is not just Burlington Township and Florence really was involved with it. She got her information from Burlington Township so she assumed they were the ones who were leading the charge. She didn't hear any of the information from Florence.

Mayor Wilkie said Florence Township has attended many meetings and when he became Mayor his philosophy has been that until he and Council know that something is definitely going to happen it won't be discussed publicly.

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An example is the Exit 52 issue. There were only preliminary discussions and it was blown up into a front page story. There was a large crowd at a prior meeting concerning it and it was really blown out of proportion because of the article. It is in a very preliminary state.

Ms. Marter said the reason things blow up is because people find out after the fact. The Township should have said this is a possibility and we are working on it, we don't know yet what it will be. When people find out after the fact they wonder, didn't anyone know, why wasn't the information shared. Mayor Wilkie said he would have to disagree, it wasn't after the fact. It is not something that is happening yet, it is in the very early stages. Ms. Marter said it was in the paper. Mayor Wilkie said it was in the paper because there was a press release so that people would know this is a potential. He thinks when you talk about potential you need to be careful. He won't commit to that many square feet of anything. He is committing to having a conversation. This is what he does whenever a business wants to come to the Township or a resident has a concern about something, he sits down and talks to them. He sits and talks and shares what he can share. He won't make commitments until he knows what can be done. There are many things that need to be considered, such as the scope of a plan and its effect on the quality of life in the Township.

Ms. Marter appreciated that he looks at quality of life because she has a real concern living on Front Street. She was glad to learn the dump across the river was closing but now she is finding that she could be inundated with trucks. She really loves Florence and doesn't want to have to move and she doesn't want to live on a highway. Mayor Wilkie said with all due respect she bought a property on a County road that had property to be developed. She said she bought thinking the Griffin Pipe site was contaminated and would never be developed.

Ms. Marter said she has heard Mayor and Council say the Township would never get rid of the whirlybird because it is so hard to cross a railroad track. She said there is a possibility to go straight across to John Galt Road and back out. Council President Lovenduski said at the meeting where Amazon was discussed, it was noted that was going to be a walking path, from the tracks down. She said it would be a good idea to make Railroad Avenue go straight and there would be no problem with entrapment. It was explained that the property she is referring to is owned by Whitesell and it was difficult to get just the fifteen feet needed for the walking path. They were gracious enough to do it. Mayor Wilkie said he wouldn't say it is not an option, but again, it is a rail crossing and it is an option that has been looked at and is still being looked at. That is one of many options that are out there. Ms. Marter thanked everyone for their time and consideration of what could possibly be.

Jennifer Brennan, 700 Olive Street, asked what was going on with Olive Street and Cedar Lane. At the last meeting there was a conversation and she was told the Police would have a presence there to curtail the truck traffic. There is still a lot of truck traffic going down Olive Street. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he hadn't heard this complaint from any other residents. Recently the Police Department provided him with details on the amount of traffic violations that were issued.

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Administrator Brook said if Ms. Brennan would like he would be glad to have the Police Chief call her and review what enforcement is being done. It is being done on a regular basis. He is sure if she had concerns the Police Department would take them into consideration and do what it can to make improvements.

Ms. Brennan asked if the signage was going to be installed. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he wasn't sure what signage she was referring to. The sign for Amazon is up and there is an advance sign closer to the intersection. Ms. Brennan there was discussion about signage leading up to the Amazon site. Assistant Administrator Sahol said that had been installed. Ms. Brennan said it seems a lot of trucks are just going right past it, she thinks they might not see it. Assistant Administrator Sahol said there was a sign that has been up for a few weeks, it is about 4' X 6', it is bright green with white letters and it points left for Amazon deliveries and ahead for the employee's entrance. There is an advance sign that is half that size that warns the truckers that Amazon is ahead. The variable message board will soon be removed. There is not much more that can be done. Ms. Brennan asked about no truck traffic signs. She thought they were going to be made bigger. Assistant Administrator Sahol said those signs are statutory and the municipality does have the option at some point to have them fabricated larger than what regulations allow and he will look into that. That conversation would be a good one to have with the Police Department. Ms. Brennan said she wanted everyone to be aware there are a lot of trucks turning around at Olive Street and Cedar Lane constantly. It happens in the middle of the night and it is really bad.

Ahjee Bray, 819 West Second Street, said she has been presenting an idea to members of the community on a Facebook page. It is called a Little Free Food Pantry. She wanted to know if this was something that could be discussed and put into motion. She said at least fifty people have emailed her saying they would like to donate and help build it. It resembles a cabinet. People could donate food and toiletries. People who need it can take from the cabinet. Someone suggested it be placed outside of the Municipal Building or at the library. Mayor Wilkie suggested she meet with Assistant Administrator Sahol and discuss it. He noted there are three food pantries already in the community. He suggested maybe coordinating with them. She would need to consider liability issues when people are giving food and other things. He doesn't know at what level the Township would be able to help. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he had extended a few invitations to Ms. Bray on Facebook to meet with her to discuss it but hadn't heard from her. He was glad she was there this evening to be able to extend the invitation in person.

Ms. Marter said at the December 7th meeting a woman spoke about the truck traffic that is going past the high school. She said there aren't any signs there indicating no trucks. Assistant Administrator Sahol said at a subsequent he let the Mayor and Council know that there were no signs but the County will reinstall them. The Police Department will be made aware when they are installed so they can be sure to enforce it.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Sandusky to close the public comment. Roll call vote – all ayes.

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8:09 PM MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Roll call vote - all ayes. Unanimous approval.

ADJOURNMENT 8:09 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

NANCY L. ERLSTON
Acting Township Clerk

/aek